



CRIME PREVENTION TIP SHEET



Vehicle Safety

Burglaries from parked vehicles are easily prevented by not leaving valuable property in plain sight. Portable electronics, wallets and purses along with shopping bags are quickly spotted if left on seats or even on the floor of your car. All it takes is for someone to walk by casually and notice your valuables out in the open.

The popularity of GPS systems that mount on the windshield also mean they are becoming increasingly popular to steal. Lots of times we park the car and leave them in the open marking our cars as possible targets for theft. These items are easy to resell as stolen property and are in high demand for export.

Purchasing high value items and then leaving them in the trunk is continuing to be a source of income for the bad guys. They wait in the parking lot of electronics store, such as Best Buy and Circuit City, watching for who comes out with a laptop box or other expensive item and then they follow the victim to their next destination, restaurant or other retail mall and then thief breaks into the car.

These criminals are so fast at this that it appears to the casual observer that they are simply opening the door in a normal manner. They enter your vehicle and remove the item many times leaving very little evidence of their entry. When you make a high value purchase go straight home and do not go anywhere else until you secure the item at home.

Keep in mind that someone is always watching for opportunities. Take these small steps to protect yourself and your property and save yourself big trouble.

Have a great safe and crime free month,

Ernie Long

Crime Prevention Officer